

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
Honolulu, Hawaii**

**Board of Land and
Natural Resources**

REGARDING: Guidance to the University of Hawaii with Respect to
Submission of a Management Plan for the Mauna
Kea Science Reserve

APPLICANT: University of Hawaii

LANDOWNER: State of Hawaii, Leased to the University of Hawaii

LOCATION: Mauna Kea Science Reserve, Island of Hawaii

TMKs: TMK: (3) 4-4-15:9 (Science Reserve)
TMK: (3) 4-4-15:12 (Hale Pohaku)

AREA OF PARCEL \pm 11,288 acres (Science Reserve)
 \pm 19 acres (Hale Pohaku)

SUBZONE: Resource

DESCRIPTION OF AREA AND CURRENT USE

The Mauna Kea Science Reserve (MKSR) encompasses 11,288 acres of State land leased to the University of Hawaii under General Lease S-4191. According to the University of Hawaii, Institute for Astronomy (UHIfA), about 0.36 percent (40.5 acres) of the lease area is currently being used by observatories and related development. The University of Hawaii also controls \pm 19 acres of land at Hale Pohaku (mid-level facilities) which includes the support facilities for the observatories. Surrounding land uses include the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve and the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. The Science Reserve is located within the Resource subzone of the State Conservation District.

PROPOSED ACTION

The University of Hawaii proposes to develop a Management Plan (MP) for the Mauna Kea Science Reserve that is comprehensive. It is our understanding that the University is conducting natural and cultural resource studies as part of this MP, which will describe existing and potential uses and activities on Mauna Kea such as astronomy, recreational and commercial activities, scientific research, cultural and religious activities, and adjacent activities. The University has

indicated that it intends to bring the MP to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) for approval sometime in early 2009. Plans would present context/background information, current status of related activities, and recommended actions. Examples could include: research and monitoring; access and use; infrastructure; restoration/habitat conservation; education and outreach; information management; review and processing of future land use proposals.

DISCUSSION

The MP is being prepared by the University of Hawaii and is its response to a January 19, 2007 ruling by the Circuit Court that reversed a decision by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) on the Keck Outrigger Telescope project. The circuit court's conclusions of law suggested that any Management Plan for Mauna Kea would need to be "comprehensive" and should not be project-by-project based (which was the case in the Keck Outrigger Telescope), and that the Management Plan should cover multiple land uses within the larger overall areas that the University of Hawaii controls at the top on Mauna Kea in the Conservation District.

At this time staff believes that it would be appropriate, given the pioneering effort on the part of the University to accommodate the circuit court's ruling, for the Board of Land and Natural Resources to provide guidance to the University concerning one aspect of the process that it is attempting to accomplish. That aspect relates to the preparation of an environmental assessment as part of the submission of the management plan. While neither the staff nor the Board can anticipate exactly what the comprehensive management plan will contain, we do believe that the University should include an environmental assessment in its submission.

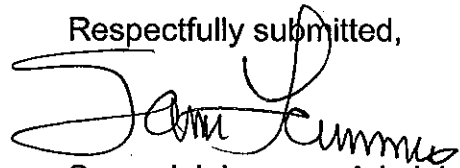
RECOMMENDATION

Based on the preceding analysis, staff recommends that the Board of Land and Natural Resources provide guidance to the University that the Management Plan being prepared by the University of Hawaii for Mauna Kea be accompanied by an environmental assessment.



Laura H. Thielen, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel J. Lemmo, Administrator